

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re patent application of

Docket No.: 02410265D1

Keisuke Ban, et al.

Serial No.: Unassigned

Group Art Unit No: Unassigned

Filed: Concurrently

Examiner: Unassigned

For: CASTING METHOD AND CASTING APPARATUS

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

Prior to the initial examination, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION

On page 1, between lines 2 and 3, insert the following:

CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application is a divisional application of co-pending U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/115,141, which is now incorporated herein by reference.

Please replace the paragraph at page 6, lines 2-14 with the following paragraph.

As a result of an extensive study made by the ~~prewent~~ present inventors to solve the above-described problems, it has been found that, in a reduction casting method which allows a reducing compound to be preliminarily present in a cavity 104 of a molding die

100 (shown in Fig. 8), a cooling rate of molten metal filled in a feeder head portion 108 and a narrow portion 104c of the cavity 104 can be made slower by coating a coating agent having a heat insulating effect only on surfaces of inner walls of the feeder head portion 108 and the narrow portion 104c of the cavity 104, compared with a case in which the surfaces of the inner walls of the feeder head portion 108 and the narrow portion 104c of the cavity 104 are not coated by the coating agent.